

1903-4 for the purpose of paying customs officials for extra duty after regular office hours and on Sundays and public holidays. Hitherto the cost of this service has been a charge upon the transportation companies, but the Government has decided to charge it to the country. The question of the removal of this charge from the transportation companies was taken up by the Dominion Marine Association and arguments for it were put forward when the deputation waited upon the Government, April 8.

The Little Red Book for 1903 has been issued by the Marine Review Publishing Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. It is in the usual handy size for the waistcoat pocket, and gives a list of about 1,500 vessels trading on the Great Lakes, together with the owners, masters and engineer of each. The vessels of 315 owners are listed, all the vessels owned by the one line or company being given together, the number of the fleet being quoted as a reference in the alphabetical list of vessels. A new list is added this year giving the capacity of all vessels suitable for the iron ore carrying trade. The number of Canadian fleets included in the list is 27, with 111 steamers and 19 schooners or tow barges, against 21 fleets with 96 steamers and 19 schooners or tow barges. In the issue for 1903 the ten steamers for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Transportation Co. are included, though they are not yet in service, while a number of additional steamers, four of which are already in service, are not mentioned, their purchase, or the appointment of their officers, not having been completed in time for inclusion.

Among the Express Companies.

W. J. Sloan, agent of the Great Northern Ex. Co. at New Westminster, B.C., has been sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment with hard labor for embezzling the Company's funds.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has extended its service on the C.P.R. extension from Waskada to Lyleton, Man., and has opened offices at Edrans, Cameron, Corona, Coulter and Lyleton thereon.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has placed its service on the following water routes for the season of navigation: C.P.R. steamships, B.C. lake and river service on Tront Lake, between Gerrard and Tront Lake City; Deseronto Navigation Co.'s steamers between Deseronto, Northport, Belleville and Picton, Ont.

An endeavour was made in the House of Commons, when the bill for the appointment of a railway commission was under consideration in committee, to have a clause inserted bringing express companies under the control of the commission. The Minister of Railways stated that the bill in a general way covered all reasonable complaints regarding express parcels; beyond this the regulation of express companies was a matter for a separate law.

Telephone and Cable Matters.

The Commercial Cable Co. has declared a quarterly dividend of 2% payable July 1.

The De Forest system of wireless telegraphy has been installed on the Hamilton Steamboat Co.'s steamer Macassa.

The Newfoundland Legislature has appropriated \$50,000 for extensions of the telegraph lines on the island during the current year.

The C.P.R. telegraph department is stringing an additional wire between St. John and St. Stephen, N.B., to give a line entirely for commercial work.

The Newfoundland Government has erected postal telegraph offices at Clarenceville,

Blandford, Glenwood, Lewisport, Norris Arm, and Millertown Jct.

T. A. Colwell, on leaving the employ of the Commercial Cable Co. at Canso, N.S., recently, was presented with a gold watch and chain by the company's officials and operators there.

The C.P.R. telegraph department is stringing an additional copper wire on its line between Winnipeg and Brandon, Man., and will string an additional wire along the C.P.R. Pembina Mountain branch.

Forty miles of cable will be laid from Banfield Creek, B.C., up the Alberni canal, to replace a section of land line which broke down frequently during the winter. This line is used in connection with the all-British trans-Pacific cable.

The Yale-Kootenay Telephone and Telegraph Co., which strung lines from Cascade to Carson, and from Midway to Greenwood, B.C., has sold them to the Great Northern Ry. Co., U.S.A., which owns the connecting lines in Washington Territory.

The Dominion Department of Public Works operates 5,720 miles of telegraph lines, employing in connection therewith 222 officers. The yearly average of messages sent is 89,400, of which 40,000 are credited to the Yukon. The total expenditure account of the Government telegraph service for the year ended June 30, 1902, was \$298,988, and revenue \$114,266.

The Dominion Government telegraph line under construction, to make the circuit of Cape Breton island, has been completed to St. Peters; and the stringing of the line on the southern shore of the island is under way. Offices on the new lines completed last year, and now in progress, will be located at St. Peters, L'Ardroice, Grand River, Forchu, Gabarus, Louisburg, and Main Adieu, with two on Scattarie island.

The C.P.R. telegraph department has opened the following new offices:—Ottetail, B.C., Banff hotel, Halbright, N.W.T.; International pier, Whitney pier, N.S.; Otta Lake, Queenston, Ravensworth, Seguin Falls, Banning, Ont.; Belisle Mill, Mount Tremblant, Que. The following offices have been closed:—Edrans, Man.; Sidewood, N.W.T.; Baden, Dalton, Metagama, Otter, Pardee, Ryerson, Ont.; Conception, Chelsea, Que.

E. H. Millington, Superintendent of the telegraph service of the Michigan Central Rd. at Detroit, Mich., was born at Guelph, Ont., Dec. 1, 1859, and started as a messenger for the Montreal Telegraph Co. at Guelph in 1873, subsequently becoming an operator for the Dominion Telegraph Co. He entered railway telegraph service in 1882 with the Canada Southern Ry., and became chief operator in 1889, being appointed to his present position Aug., 1902.

The operation of the all-British and trans-Pacific cable has not been so successful as was anticipated, the Cable Board recently estimating that there would be a deficit for the year ended Mar., 1904, of £92,000. As Canada has to pay 5-18 of any deficit, her share would amount to £25,555. The matter was mentioned in the House of Commons, and the Senate, and certain correspondence was directed to be laid on the table. It appears that the Government has protested against what appears to be an act of bad faith on the part of the New South Wales Government in entering into an agreement with the Eastern Extension Cable Co., by which this company was given entrance to the post offices throughout N.S.W.; and that it also proposed to the Cable Board to permit press messages to be transmitted free for three months as an experiment, but the Australian States refused to join in the proposal.

General Telephone Matters.

The Regina, Assa., city council has under consideration the desirability of installing a municipal telephone system.

The Nova Scotia Telephone Co. is applying to the Provincial Government to sanction an increase of rates in Truro.

The New Brunswick Telephone Co. will string a metallic line from Fredericton to St. John, and from Moncton to St. John.

The Nissouri Telephone Association has its line in operation connecting Thamesford, Lakeside, Kintore and Medina, Ont.

The new municipal telephone building at Fort William, Ont., replacing the one burned during the winter, has been completed, and the telephone plant installed.

The Bell Telephone Co. has offered to pay \$352 a year for an exclusive franchise for five years in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., but this was not satisfactory to the council and the company was asked to make another proposition on certain lines.

The Bell Telephone Co. has agreed to give Montreal West a telephone service at city rates, connection being made with the Westmount exchange. The town council has granted the franchise, and the lines will be installed at once.

The Bell Telephone Co. has protested against the Sherbrooke, Que., city council locating the poles of the People's Telephone Co. in close proximity to its poles, in contravention of an agreement between the city and the Bell Telephone Co. in 1885.

The Bell Telephone Co. is clearing the site of its proposed new building in Hospital st., Montreal. The site adjoins its present building and includes the Skelton property, 45 ft. frontage and 3,183 sq. ft. in area, and the next property, 98 ft. frontage and 7,577 sq. ft. in area.

The New Brunswick Telephone Co. declared a dividend of 4% for the year, and elected the following officers at its annual meeting: President, Hon. A. G. Blair, M.P.; Vice-President, J. L. Black, Sackville; Managing Director, Senator Thompson; Secretary and Treasurer, W. E. Smith.

The bill respecting telephones introduced into the House of Commons by W. F. Maclean, M.P. for West York, was referred to a special committee. Deputations representing the Bell Telephone Co., Toronto, Ottawa and other cities, and the Union of Canadian Municipalities, were heard by the committee.

The Consolidated Telephone Co. has been incorporated under the New Brunswick Companies' Act, with a capital of \$5,000, to carry on a telephone business in Carleton and Victoria counties. The incorporators are: M. E. Commins, P. Corbett, M. Bohan, of Bath; P. Gorey, P. McLaughlan, of Johnville, and the offices of the company are at Bath.

The proposition to expend \$2,000,000 in the laying of a conduit into which telephone, telegraph and other electric companies will be compelled to lay their wires by the Montreal city council, will be submitted to the tax payers before any definite action is taken. A conference between the council committee and representatives of the companies interested was held, June 18, to discuss the matter.

The West Isles Telephone Co. has been incorporated under the New Brunswick Companies' Act with a capital of \$4,000, to construct a telephone line between Lord's Cove and various other sections of the district of West Isles, and to make connection with the lines of any other similar company. The incorporators are: J. S. Lord, F. A. Richardson, E. A. McNeill, W. L. Randall, A. Murray, of West Isles, and the offices of the company are at Lord's Cove, N.B.